TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 13th April, 1923.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, at Eleven Thirty-one of the Clock, with the Deputy President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Contract for the Transport and Supply of Bombay Salt in 1098.

196. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the interval between the date of publication in the Government Gazette of the notice for the auction sale of the contract for the transport and supply of Bombay salt for 1098 and the date of the auction sale of the contract for the same?

(*b*) Were copies of the above notices sent to the merchants of Bombay, and, if so, when?

(*c*) How many bidders were present at the auction sale of Bombay salt (excluding the bidders present at that of Tinnevelly salt)?

(*d*) What is the price per maund of salt for which the contract for the transport and supply of Bombay salt for 1098 was given? What was the contract rate per maund of that salt in 1097?

(*e*) For how many years has the contract for the transport and supply of Bombay salt been given now?

(*f*) What was the period fixed in the notice published in the Gazette and for which bidders were invited?

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) 27 days.

(*b*) Yes; on the 22nd September 1922.

(*c*) Three, excluding the bidders present for the Tinnevelly salt.

(*d*) For 1098 the supply prices were:—

Alleppey Depôt—As. 11, pies 2 $\frac{2}{5}$ per maund.

Munambam Depôt—As. 10, pies 8 $\frac{4}{5}$ per maund.

For 1097:—

Alleppey Depôt—As. 9, pies 3 $\frac{2}{5}$ per maund.

Munambam Depôt—As. 11, pies 4 $\frac{4}{5}$ per maund.

The contract for Munambam in 1097 was for supply and sale and not for supply alone as in 1098.

(*e*) The contract for the supply of salt to the Alleppey Depôt is given for one year and that for the Munambam Depôt for 3 years.

(*f*) Both the contracts were advertised for one year.

Contract for the Transport and Supply of Tinnevelly Salt in 1098.

197. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Has the contract for the transport and supply of Tinnevelly salt for 1098 been given to any person and, if so, to whom?

(*b*) Was he present at the time of the auction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes; to Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.

(*b*) No.

Supply of Salt at the Trivandrum Depot.

198. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: Are the Government aware—

(*a*) that the home salt supplied form the Port Salt Depôt, Trivandrum, is bad for consumption; and

(*b*) that the merchants of Trivandrum get down salt direct from south Travancore for sale in Trivandrum?

(ii) What is the total quantity of salt required for consumption in the Trivandrum Division for one year?

(iii) Were the Government able to supply to the public of the Trivandrum Division all the salt they required for consumption in 1097 from the Port Salt Depôt, Trivandrum? If not, why?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Salt is sometimes got down by merchants from the factories in south Travancore for sale at Trivandrum, not because the stock in the Trivandrum Depôt is inferior in quality, but because it is more profitable to them to do so.

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